



مجموعة العمل من أجل فلسطينيي سورية  
Action Group For Palestinians of Syria

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## التقرير اليومي

الخاص بأوضاع اللاجئين الفلسطينيين في سورية

Daily report on the situation of Palestinian refugees in Syria



### "Displaced Palestinian Woman Appeals for Reunification with Her Newborn"

- Palestinian Refugee Fatally Tortured in Syria's Penal Complexes
- Family Visits to Syria's Adra Prison Suspended
- 34 Migrants Rescued off Turkish Seashore

+442084530978

/Actgroup.palsyria

reports@actionpal.org.uk

www.actionpal.org.uk



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## Victims

Palestinian refugee Mohamed Zreiq has died under torture in Syrian government prisons, where he has been locked up for over one year and a half.

The victim, a former resident of Mesyaf city, in Hama's suburbs, had been arrested by the Syrian security forces on three occasions over his participation in peaceful protests held across Damascus.

AGPS data indicates that 617 Palestinian refugees have died under torture in Syria's state-run penitentiaries.

AGPS estimates the real number to be far higher due to the gag orders slapped by the Syrian government on the detainees' names and fates, along with the families' reluctance to report such cases over retaliation concerns.



Affidavits by ex-detainees have provided evidence on the involvement of Syrian government officers in harsh torture tactics, including electric shocks, heavy beating using whips and iron sticks, and sexual abuse against Palestinian prisoners, in a flagrant violation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, commonly known as the United Nations Convention against Torture (UNCAT).



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AGPS continues to urge the Syrian government to disclose the fate of scores of Palestinians held in its lock-ups, release the bodies of those tortured to death, to seriously work on halting harsh torture tactics, launch fact-finding probes into crimes of torture, and to bring those involved in such crimes before courts.

### **Latest Developments**

Palestinian refugee Hanadi Suheil Issa, displaced to northern Syria, has appealed to the Turkish authorities and international humanitarian organizations to facilitate her safe access to Turkey so as to enable her to reunite with her baby girl who has been transferred to Turkey for treatment.

In appeals emailed to AGPS, the displaced Palestinian mother said she gave birth to her newborn Suweim some five months ago and has not seen her ever since due to the mother's and the newborn's critical health condition. The infant was transferred to a hospital in Turkey to undergo an urgent surgery.



The mother said she reached out to the concerned authorities in charge of the Turkish crossing point, north of Syria, in order to gain access to Turkey, but her demand was turned down.



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Palestinian refugee Hanadi Issa and her husband Suleiman Faisal Bahar, a Syrian national, were displaced from Hums and later from Aleppo's western outskirts. They reached Efrin region, north of Syria.

In another development, activists said the Adra prison administration halted visits to the detainees, as a preventive measure to prevent an outbreak of the coronavirus.

The activists said the prisoners are at real risk as no special health measures have been taken by authorities in the overcrowded prison.

Dozens of Palestinian refugees are detained in Adra Prison, a prison on the north-east outskirts of Damascus. Political prisoners are held in the prison, along with a mixture of civil prisoners such as traffic offenders, murderers, and drug dealers. In 2014, the prison held more than 7,000 inmates, a dozen of them women, in space designed for 2,500. The Washington Post referred to the prison as "infamous".



AGPS has recorded the secret detention of 1,788 Palestinian refugees in Syrian government prisons, where conditions of captivity have been characterized as extremely horrendous.



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In the meantime, 34 irregular migrants have been rescued by the Turkish coast guard off the coast of Izmir, trying to disembark in Greek.

The migrants were intercepted onboard an inflatable boat. Turkey has served as a major launch-off point for migrants fleeing Syria, among other war-stricken zones, onboard “death boats” bound for Europe, as they rummaged around for a safe shelter. Dozens of Palestinians died at sea, trying to get to safety to European destinations.